



St. Nicholas Academy

Approved

August 21st, 2018

St. Nicholas Academy Board of Limited Jurisdiction

170 Siebenthaler Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

(513) 686-2727

Meeting May 15th, 2018

Present: Fr. Ray Kellerman, Fr. Matt Robben, Neil Bailey, Kevin Braun, Bridget Hoffman, Mary Imhoff, Angie Noble, Joe Geers, Rick Bohne

Also present: Aideen Briggs, Jim Volz, Cindy Hardesty

Not present: Fr. Tim Bunch

Call to Order and Faith Formation: Bridget called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Fr. Matt presented an explanation on the *Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows* followed by praying the *Seven Prayers of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary* which prays for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Several members shared their thoughts on the meaning of the Rosary and their devotion to Mary especially at times of distress.

Minutes:

1. There were two minor corrections to the minutes from the April minutes that were corrected prior to the Board meeting.
2. Joe moved that the minutes be accepted. Rick seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Opportunity to Address the Board Members:

1. Marianne Wright requested to address the Board concerning the rumors that have been circulating in the community that SNA is closing. She asked if the rumors were true and stated that if they are not, the rumors need to be addressed since they are detrimental to SNA and the future of SNA.
2. The Vice-Chair responded by explaining there is no decision to close SNA. As always, we need to keep enrollment up, and remain fiscally responsible. The Board cannot say what will happen in the future, but the intention is not to close. This is further evidenced by the fact that the four Board members with children at SNA have registered their children and are not in search of a new school for them for the future.
3. The Board members have drafted a letter to go out to the parishes and families of the school. We have also reached an agreement with the parishes about parish support, which is agreeable to all three parishes. This gives us some financial challenges to work through, while providing some relief for the parishes.
4. Marianne asked if we could publicize the great things happening in the school, through the parishes.

Communication- There were no communications to report.

Principal report

1. We had our second tornado drill in May.
2. Enrollment stands at 144 so far for the 2018-2019 school year. Aideen provided a printout of students who are not yet registered for the next school year.
3. All three covenanting parishes have celebrated First Communion for the second graders at SNA.
4. NET Ministries put on a retreat for grades 6-8. This was done at no cost to us or our families. The usual cost is \$770. We did host the team members for 2 meals each. Feedback from faculty, students and team members was good. NET ministries has offered to work with us in the future should we decide to schedule another retreat.
5. The preschool teacher met with some new families at the carnival. She also met with parents and students on the night of the Spring Music Program. The preschool curriculum is a Science based curriculum and also a social-emotional curriculum entitled *Conscious Discipline*. The parents seemed impressed. The preschool teacher's name is Caroline Davis. There are currently 6 students enrolled in the preschool.

6. Olivia Pennington, an MND graduate, is going to do a fundraiser for the benefit of the preschool and also help with the preschool as part of her capstone project. She is planning a parents' night out over the summer, where parents can drop off their children for the evening. The preschool teacher also gave Aideen a wish list of things she would like to have. We have already received a water table which was on the list.
7. SPARTENS and the Music program went very well. The ice cream social was a nice addition.
8. The SNA Springfest Carnival showed excellent planning but attendance was disappointing. The PTO did freeze their baked goods, so they could be used for the ice cream social.
9. On Field Day, the faculty decided to provide lunch for the students. Each teacher signed up to bring something in. Field Day is May 30th.
10. Aideen has been meeting with teachers and signing contracts for the next school year. She has advertised for a new music teacher, and has received a couple of resumes.
11. Aideen has contacted NKYVC about summer camps. The camps are put on by their coaches and are free, so we could charge whatever we think is appropriate. We would receive all of the proceeds from the camps. She also spoke to the teachers to see if anyone wanted to host a summer camp as well. Angie said she would be willing to put on a camp on study skills or reading strategies.
12. Aideen has completed teacher observations this year. She has offered recommendations for improvement. She is considering a book for professional development for next year. The cost is about \$5. It is titled *Teach Like a Champion* by Doug Lemov. Aideen is confident everyone could draw some benefit from this.
13. Graduation is May 30th, at Holy Trinity at 6:30 pm.

Finance

1. Jim circulated the report for March today.
2. We are seeing a benefit from the new lighting and boilers in lower utility bills.
3. Most of the differences from month to month are the result of payments received at varying times especially those from the government.
4. Fr. Ray asked Jim to send the financial report out at least a day sooner, so the members have an opportunity to review it. Jim said that was his intent, but two funerals in five days threw things off.
5. Following the last Board meeting, the members voted by email on the amount of money that was to be dispersed from the Gerry Myer Scholarship Fund. The unanimous vote was that \$4,000 be given to each of the covenanting parishes for tuition assistance and \$2,000 be given

to the principal for discretionary funding. Four thousand dollars then remains in the fund and will be replenished to a \$10,000 balance.

Marketing

1. Angie has been continuing with Facebook. She has added Courtney Booher, Amy Smart and Vickie Mentrup as administrators as well. This has been a great help to Angie.
2. The enrollment blurbs have just finished running in the parish bulletins. St. John and St. Savior also ran blurbs several times on their Facebook sites as well which was very kind of them.
3. Angie is trying to expand the Marketing Committee. Last year, Angie called a meeting with all of the other school organizations such as PTO and Athletics and the Gala (Gamefest). They were able to plan the calendar, which was a great help to Marketing. Often, advertising deadlines are weeks or even months prior to the event, so Marketing needs information well in advance.

Athletics

1. Volleyball was also contacted by NKYVC concerning a summer camp. The volleyball folks were hopeful they could use the camp as a fundraiser, the proceeds of which would be used toward the purchase of new volleyball uniforms. Kevin requested a couple of dates in July before contacting OLSH to see what works. The target age is 4-8 grades. There is a possibility of sponsoring a clinic for coaches as well in the beginning of August.
2. Kevin has provided very preliminary dates for usage of the gym, but these may change depending on scheduling. More information will follow.
3. We hope to host U8-soccer games for the fall. This will be girls and boys.

Pastors- No report

Facilities- Joe is meeting with Fr. Matt and Aideen next week.

Old Business

Financial Report

1. It was decided that the letter to the parishioner and parents should go out as soon as possible. The financial report will follow once we have the final figures for 2017-2018.
2. The letter will be posted to the website, copies sent to the parish bulletins, and copies sent in the home folders.

New Business

Date of Graduation 2019

1. Neil voiced his concern that if the 2019 school calendar coincides with the current year, the SNA graduation will be at St. John probably around June 4th. The parish will be in the midst of festival setup.
2. The staff wants to be sure that the area high school graduations do not conflict with our graduation date to ensure that no faculty member or parent will face the dilemma of their child graduating from high school the same night SNA does. Aideen will look into this.

Increasing Awareness

1. The members all agree that it is important that the parishes are aware of what is happening at SNA.
2. One suggestion is to have sports teams attending Mass as a group before their games.
3. It was also suggested that the students could be ministers at Sunday Mass. Fr. Matt raised his concern that it is often difficult to hear and understand children when they read at Mass and he is therefore hesitant to have students as lectors.
4. Students could write something about Catholic education and why they are "Proud to say SNA".
5. At walkathon time, students could stand at the back of church seeking sponsors.

Fr. Ray moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joe seconded.

Fr. Ray led the members in prayer, ending with *The Our Father*.

The next meeting is August 21st, 2018.